CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of raising poultry comprising the steps of:

providing a facility for housing the poultry having an interior; and

providing at least one ventilation fan adapted to restrict the transmission of light into the interior of the facility.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the at least one ventilation fan comprises either a light absorbing coating or a light-absorbing resin.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the light-absorbing coating includes an opaque gel coat.

4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising producing light cycles to mimic daylight duration variation representative of seasonal changes.

5. The method of Claim 4, further comprising exposing the interior of the facility to natural light cycles of an outside environment for a period.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising limiting exposure of the interior of the facility to produce a brown-out lighting effect in the interior of the facility.

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a climate control device for controlling an environment within the interior.

8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a shutter mounted to the at least one ventilation fan, the shutter selectively enabling air flow therethrough.

9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a light trap associated with the at least one light-absorbing ventilation fan for further prohibiting light transmission into the facility.

10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing at least one selectively coverable opening for selectively enabling passage of light into the interior.

11. A method of raising poultry for improved food production, comprising the steps of:

providing a facility for housing poultry with at least one wall forming an interior, the at least one wall having a ventilation opening from an exterior environment to the interior; and

providing a ventilation fan in the ventilation opening, the ventilation fan being adapted to restrict the transmission of light into the interior of the facility through the ventilation opening.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein at least a portion of the ventilation fan comprises either a light absorbing coating or a light-absorbing resin.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the light-absorbing coating includes an opaque gel coat.

14. The method of Claim 11, further comprising producing light cycles to mimic daylight duration variation representative of seasonal changes.

15. The method of Claim 14, further comprising exposing the interior of the facility to natural light cycles of an outside environment for a period.

16. The method of Claim 11, further comprising limiting exposure of the interior of the facility to produce a brown-out lighting effect in the interior of the facility.

17. The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of providing a climate control device for controlling an environment within the interior.

18. The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of providing a shutter mounted to the ventilation fan, the shutter selectively enabling air flow therethrough.

19. The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of providing a light trap associated with the ventilation fan for further prohibiting light transmission into the facility.

20. The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of providing at least one selectively coverable opening for selectively enabling passage of light into the interior.